THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Students get 50% concession on season tickets. Railways also grant concession in fares to Students of recognised educational institutions for going on educational tours and home town. This concession is granted at the station on the basis of certificate issued by Head of the Institution. The certificates are printed by Railways and supplied to Institutions.

Railways grant concession in fares to sports persons for participating in State/All India/National championships organised by recognised National Sports Federations which have been approved by Ministry of Railways. This concession is granted at the station on the basis of authority letter issued by the authorised Railway Officer.

Besides, complimentary card passes valid for Journey in 2nd A.C. excluding Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains, for travel from any station to any other station on Indian Railways are being issued to the winners of Arjuna Awards and Dronacharya Awards.

(b) As per extant procedure, the forms of these concessions are not kept at any Railway Station or Reservation Office of Indian Railway as the forms have to be certified by the prescribed competent authority who are outside the Railway jurisdiction.

(c) and (d) do not arise.

Accidents enquiry by other Agency

† 2874. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for conducting enquiries into the rail accidents by the Commissioner of Rail Security only;

(b) whether enquiries made by Commissioner, Railway Safety reveal the rail causes of accidents, if so, proof thereof; and

(c) if not, what is the decision of Government in respect of conducting the enquiry of any of the rail accidents together with the one taken place in Kerala by some other agency rather than by the Commissioner, Safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Railway accidents are inquired into by

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Commissioner of Railway Safety as per provisions of Indian Railway Act. 1989. Commission of Railway Safety is an organisation functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, thereby ensuring its impartiality. In many other foreign railways also such statutory bodies exist for conducting inquiries into rail accidents. Commissioners of Railway Safety (CRS) being ex-railwaymen have adequate knowledge for undertaking such inquiries since inquiries into railway accidents are of a technical nature. It may not be possible for a non-railwayman to complete such an inquiry within the limited time frame available for its completion. Except in few isolated cases where cause of an accident could not be established, in most other cases CRSs are able to arrive at the most probable cause of the accident.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for getting rail accidents inquiries, including the one that occurred in Kerala, conducted by some other agency.

Promotion of bill clerk/issuer in Northern Railway

2875. SHRI AB ANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway has recently promoted some persons at the post of bill clerk/bill issuer through computer in its VIP canteens in Parliament complex who are totally illiterate;

(b) if so, the facts thereof with qualification of each of the person;

(c) the criteria adopted in selecting the persons for the post;

(d) whether the Northern Railway would ensure that only educated and qualified persons are given such posts in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Three persons, S/Shri Om Prakash, Ram Pal Singh and Matwar Singh, working as Head Waiters in the pay scale of Rs. 2650—4000 were recently promoted as Bill Issuer in the pay scale of Rs. 2750—4400 in the Parliament House Catering Complex. While S/Shri Om Prakash and Ram Pal Singh are Class 6th and Class 8th passed respectively, the service record of Shri Matwar Singh does not indicate his qualification. However, he meets the basic requirement of knowledge of reading and writing.